

Outdoor Report

The week of November 10th, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- **West River Deer season runs November 15th – 30th.**
 - **East River Deer season runs November 22nd – December 7th.**
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: No fishing activity. The Walleye bite has not picked up yet this fall.

Elm Lake: No fishing activity.

James River: Fishing has been slow. The water level on the river has dropped in the last couple of weeks and there isn't much water flow.

Elm River: No fishing activity. The water level is low on the river.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Hunters are finding more pheasants in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. The corn harvest is well underway, which is making the pheasants easier to hunt in some areas.

Goose: Lately, hunters have had decent success hunting geese. Field hunters had the best success this weekend. Scouting is the key to success. The northern part of Brown County has large flocks of snow geese. Good numbers of white-fronted geese and Canada geese are also in the area.

Duck: Hunters had decent success this weekend hunting ducks. Hunters that hunted corn stubble had the best success. Scouting is the key to success. There was a good push of ducks into Brown County over the weekend.

Swan: Swans have been showing up in good numbers in NE Brown County.

Sand Lake Waterfowl Estimates: Canada geese 4,800, snow geese 27,000, ducks 93,000 and 340 swans. Most of the ducks on the refuge are gadwalls, mallards, green-winged teal and northern shovelers.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

No fishing report. The weather has turned and we are in the in between stages where the lakes are freezing over and ice conditions are unsafe.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: With the recent weather, waterfowl has really moved into the area. Hunters are reporting decent success for waterfowl, both in the field and on water.

Deer: Mornings and evenings are still the most active parts of the day. The rut is drawing near, with bucks starting to chase does. A few hunters have reported success.

Small Game: Hunters are reporting about 1 bird per hunter.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Lake Kampeska: Most anglers are reporting a few Walleye with an occasional Bass or Northern Pike. Lunkers inlet still has some activity with the same results.

Pelican Lake: No activity.

Goose Lake: There are still quite a few fishermen fishing the Grover road and catching some Walleye. The boat anglers are having good luck in multiple parts of the lake on Walleye.

Long Lake: Some shore fishing activity has picked up all around the lake this week. The reports are pretty consistent with about two fish per person, with the opportunity to catch fish over 20 inches.

Dry Lake: Not as much activity this week on Dry Lake, but there are still a few boats out there. Reports remain similar to last week, with a few Walleye and Perch.

Grass Lake: No activity.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to youngsters in and around town to catch Bluegill, Trout or Sunfish. Some Trout were stocked just recently.

Stink: A few Walleye from shore are being caught.



Hunting Report:

Ducks: Ducks are now starting to move into the area from the north due to the weather. Snow cover will make things difficult, but there should be decent opportunity for a short while.

Geese: There are some geese moving into the area due to the weather. There are now good flocks of snows moving in.

Pheasants: The trending report from hunters is better than last year. Most hunters are still having a tough time getting a limit of pheasants in Codington County, however; they are seeing more birds than last year. Things should be a little easier now with the snow cover.

Deer: Archery hunters are sitting more hours as rut is in full swing. With harvest in full swing and pheasant hunters moving deer around, archers have a good chance of a deer coming by their stand at all hours of the day.

Day County



Fishing Report:

With the recent colder weather, most fishing activities will become very difficult from shore and from the boat. The 10 day forecast looks like temperatures only reaching highs in the 30's for the foreseeable future, with lows in the single digits. I believe it's time to dust off your ice fishing gear.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Large flocks of geese can be found throughout the county with a wide range of flock sizes. With the recent change in weather patterns, goose and duck activity should pick up dramatically. With the large amount of snow falling in such a short amount of time, hunters may have to change tactics to hunt birds successfully.

Duck: The northern migration of mallards has been observed by many over the past week. Large, localized flocks of mallards and a few pintail have become more prevalent throughout the entire county. Those seeking to hunt private land are reminded to obtain permission before actively pursuing game.

Pheasant: Pheasant harvest success remains similar to the previous week. Hunters have reported shooting limits of birds, but over the course of the entire day. These harvested birds were found in localized areas where the majority of the crops have been harvested.

Swan: Swan sightings have increased dramatically over the past week. Concentrated flocks can be found throughout the county. Those planning to pursue tundra swan should plan at least an evening of scouting to locate birds.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

No fishing report. The weather has turned and we are in the in between stages where the lakes are freezing over and ice conditions are unsafe.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: Most of the geese have left the area.

Duck: The majority of ducks have moved out of the area.

Pheasant: Finding birds remains difficult, but there are certainly more birds this year than last year. The corn harvest is well underway.

Deer: Deer activity and movement has increased in the last week.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: Good numbers of Canada and snow geese can be found in the eastern and northern areas of the county.

Duck: Hunters can find decent numbers of ducks in the northern part of the county. These cold snaps will likely push ducks south.

Pheasant: Hunters are killing decent numbers of birds in the NE part of the county. The cold weather should group up the birds in good cover.

Deer: Hunters are saying the rut is on. A few nice bucks have been harvested by archery hunters.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

No fishing report. The weather has turned and we are in the in between stages where the lakes are freezing over and ice conditions are unsafe.



Hunting Report:

Big Stone Power Plant: A few ducks and geese have filtered into the power plant.

Pheasant: Hunters are going to have to work hard and walk a lot to find success. Success has been low so far this season.

Deer: Deer movement has increased as the farmers continue to harvest corn.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: Very slow again this week. A few boaters are reporting some keeper Walleye and a few Perch.

Fedt Slough: A few shore fishermen this week. Reports range from small Perch to nicer Walleye.

Three Buck: No fishing activity.

Lake Norden: No fishing activity.

Lake Albert: No fishing activity.

Lake Mary/John: No fishing activity.

Clear Lake (Thomas): Some smaller Walleye, but nothing consistent.



Hunting Report:

Ducks: With the recent weather event, there are now a lot of ducks pouring in from the north. There are plenty of ducks in the Hazel area and a little scouting should grant some success.

Geese: With the weather event, there have been a lot of geese along with some decent flocks of snows pushing through the area.

Pheasants: Bird numbers look better than last year, so we are headed in the right direction according to most hunters. Everyone is reporting tough harvest, but at least they are seeing more birds and everyone claims to be seeing more hens. With the snow cover, it should increase chances on a successful outing.

Deer: With harvest and pheasant hunting going on, the opportunity to see a deer come by the stand is pretty high. Most archers are taking to the stand more as we move further into the fall and rut goes into full swing.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

Due to the weather and ice, no fishing activity has been observed. Please use caution! Ice has formed on most bodies of water across the county. Ice conditions, at time of report, are unsafe to use in any manner.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: Due to the recent snow storm and cold temperatures, the majority of waterfowl are migrating quickly through the area. Scouting is the key to success.

Deer: The rut is in full swing. With the recent full moon, deer activity was very high in the evening hours. Now is a great time to be in the tree stand.

Pheasant: Hunters targeting cattails close to harvested agricultural fields seem to be having the best luck. The majority of pheasants are located in the western half of the county.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

No fishing report. The weather has turned and we are in the in between stages where the lakes are freezing over and ice conditions are unsafe.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Success was not very good. Hunters averaged about 1.5 birds per person since opening weekend. Hunters are finding birds in standing corn and corn that has just been harvested or in slough areas. Hunters reported seeing minimal birds. Hunter numbers were down.

Canada Geese: The number of geese is changing daily. The Roscoe area is holding a good number of birds along with the Long Lake area.

Snow Geese: Good numbers in both counties. Hunters have to drive around to find groups. The geese in this area will probably be short lived.

Duck: Good numbers of ducks in both counties. The Ipswich to Bowdle area and south of HWY 12 is holding the largest concentration of ducks. Some good pockets of ducks can be found in both counties. Hunters are having good luck decoying ducks in partially harvested corn fields.

Swan: Good numbers of swans in McPherson County. A few small pockets of swans can be found in Edmunds County. North of HWY 10 in McPherson County is holding the most Swans.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Walleye action is good throughout the lake, as well as the Mystinka River.

Dry Wood Lake: Walleye bite is good.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Numbers are good throughout the county. Scouting is the key to success.

Duck: Duck numbers are okay and we're just starting to see a few new birds move into the county. Some field hunters did find some birds, but it was slow.

Swan: There are a lot of swans in the area.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low, but a few can be found on the coteau.

Pheasant: Hunters had difficulty finding birds, but the best success came in hunting CRP, sloughs or grass towards evening.

Deer: Youth hunters and archers are finding a few deer moving around.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Fishing is slow throughout the area. Small bodies of water are starting to freeze over with the cold weather.

Twin Lake: Fishing activity is slow.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: The Walleye bite has significantly slowed down.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity.

Turtle Creek: No fishing activity.

James River: Anglers are catching some Walleyes. The river level is low.



Hunting Report:

Goose: There are some new groups of geese in the county. The cold snap may push them south this week.

Duck: The migration started this past weekend. The recent cold snap and snowfall will likely speed up the migration and may push the birds south.

Pheasant: Hunters are having better success as the season progresses. With all the crops out, hunters are finding more birds. The recent cold weather should get the birds in the thick cover areas.

Deer: Archery hunters are seeing a lot more deer movement and have harvested some bucks in the county.